



Office of the
Superior General

Saint Francis Monastery • Franciscan Brothers of Brooklyn

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February 28, 2018

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Commissioner Robert Taub, Chairman
Commissioner Tony Hammond, Vice Chairman
Commissioner Nanci Langley
Commissioner Mark Acton
Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268

RE: Docket No. RM2017-3

Dear Commissioners:

We join the National Catholic Development Conference (NCDC), the Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers, and the nonprofit mailing community in urging you to reconsider your proposal to increase postage rates several times the rate of inflation. Increases that are estimated to reach 7 percent a year, or 40 percent compounded for five years, will not reform the United States Postal Service and will have a major negative impact on both the agency and its customers.

As a nonprofit, we rely on mail for the majority of our fundraising. But we operate on a limited, fixed fundraising budget each year, so if postage goes up as much as you contemplate, we will be forced to greatly reduce our mailings. This will have a disastrous impact on our revenue and our mission.

The mission of the Franciscan Brothers, officially known as the Congregation of Religious Brothers of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis, is to continue the 800 year-old Franciscan Tradition as we minister in schools, parishes, and other pastoral ministries of the Catholic Church in the Dioceses of Brooklyn and Rockville Centre, NY; Paterson, NJ and Cape Girardeau, MO.

Postage increases totaling 40 percent over the next five years will have the following impact on our mission and the people we serve in New York, New Jersey and Missouri.

Please do the right thing and reconsider your proposal.

Sincerely,

Bro. Christopher D. Thurneau, OSF

Brother Christopher D. Thurneau, OSF
Superior General